2017
Homeless Families with Children
IN THE UNITED STATES

POINT-IN-TIME (PIT)
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On a single night in January 2017, 184,411 people were experiencing homelessness as part of a family with children. This is a 21.4% decline since 2007.

For 33 states and D.C., at least 91% of people experiencing homelessness in families were in sheltered locations.

People in families with children in unsheltered & sheltered locations are 9% in cities and 91% in suburban & rural areas.

In 2017, 478,718 people in families with children experienced sheltered homelessness at some point during the year, which is essentially the same number as in 2007.

About 3 in 5 people experiencing sheltered homelessness as part of a family were children under age 18.

Between 2007 and 2017, people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness increased by 19.1% in suburban & rural areas and decreased by 5.5% in cities.

Families with children are households composed of at least one adult and one child under age 18. Family households with children have various compositions: single-parent families, two-parent families, and multi-generation families.

Chronically Homeless People in Families are people in families with children in which the head of household has a disability and has either been continuously homeless for 1 year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months.

Parenting Youth are people under age 25 who are the parents or legal guardians of one or more children (under age 18) who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, where there is no person over age 24 in the household.
This section presents the Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates of people who experienced homelessness as part of a family with children in the U.S. The PIT estimates are one-night counts of people experiencing homelessness in both sheltered and unsheltered locations. The one-night counts are conducted by CoCs nationwide and occur during the last ten days in January. CoCs are required to conduct a PIT count in shelters (emergency shelter and transitional housing programs) and a street (or “unsheltered”) count at least every other year. The unsheltered PIT count was required in 2017.

“Families with children” are households composed of at least one adult and one child under age 18. Most of the estimates in this section describe the number of people in family households rather than the number of households.

**On a Single Night in January 2017**
- 184,411 people experienced homelessness as part of 57,886 families with children. About a third (33.5%) of all people experiencing homelessness on a single night were in families.
- About nine in ten people experiencing homelessness as part of a family on a single night (91%) were in sheltered locations, while only 9 percent were unsheltered.

**Chronically Homeless People in Families with Children**
- Of all people with chronic patterns of homelessness in January 2017, only 8.8 percent (8,387 people) were in families with children. Of people in families with chronic patterns of homelessness, nearly three in ten (28.7%) were in unsheltered locations.

**Homeless People in Parenting Youth Families with Children**
- 21,338 people were experiencing homelessness in families with children with a parent under the age of 25. Five percent of people in parenting youth families experiencing homelessness were in unsheltered locations.

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1 Estimate differs from the 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report: Part 1 due to an adjustment made by Los Angeles to their unsheltered population. The number of chronically homeless people in families was reduced by 70 people. The number of parenting youth was reduced by 250 people.

2 Homeless families with parenting youth draw from multiple populations: families with at least one adult and one child (like the other families described in this section) and child-only families, where the head of household is under age 18. This population of families with only children and no adults, though described here as “families,” is considered part of the population of “individuals” experiencing homelessness. The 184,411 people in families with children do not include these individuals.

Data Source: PIT 2007–2017
Includes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories
See the supporting PIT data tabulations posted on HUD’s Resource Exchange at www.hudexchange.info. Since 2007, the number of people in families with children experiencing unsheltered homelessness on a single night in January dropped by 70.3%.
Between January 2016 and January 2017

- The number of people experiencing homelessness in families with children declined 5.3 percent (10,305 fewer people). Similarly, there were 5.5 percent fewer homeless family households (3,379 households) in 2017 than in 2016.
- The share of people in families counted in shelters rather than unsheltered locations increased slightly between 2016 and 2017 (from 90.2% to 91%).
- Both sheltered and unsheltered family homelessness declined, with 7,840 fewer people experiencing sheltered homelessness in families with children in 2017 than in 2016 (a 4.5% decline), and 2,465 fewer in unsheltered locations (an 12.9% decline).

Between January 2007 and January 2017

- The number of people experiencing homelessness in families with children on a single night declined 21.4 percent (50,147 fewer people). The drop in people in families with children in unsheltered locations largely drove the overall decline, with 70.3 percent fewer people in families in unsheltered locations (39,542 fewer people). Those experiencing sheltered homelessness declined more modestly, by 5.9 percent (10,605 fewer people).
- Over the ten-year period, the number of family households with children experiencing homelessness declined 26.3 percent (20,649 fewer family households).

EXHIBIT 3.2: Change in Homeless People in Families with Children
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Total Homeless People with Children</th>
<th>Sheltered People with Children</th>
<th>Unsheltered People with Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># Change</td>
<td>% Change</td>
<td># Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 to 2017</td>
<td>-10,305</td>
<td>-5.3</td>
<td>-7,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 to 2016</td>
<td>-11,570</td>
<td>-5.6</td>
<td>-10,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 to 2015</td>
<td>-9,975</td>
<td>-4.6</td>
<td>-6,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 to 2014</td>
<td>-5,929</td>
<td>-2.7</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 to 2013</td>
<td>-17,207</td>
<td>-7.2</td>
<td>575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 to 2012</td>
<td>3,222</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>4,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 to 2011</td>
<td>-5,762</td>
<td>-2.4</td>
<td>-4,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 to 2010</td>
<td>3,841</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>4,012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008 to 2009</td>
<td>2,837</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>5,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 to 2008</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>3,178</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007 to 2017</td>
<td>-50,147</td>
<td>-21.4</td>
<td>-10,605</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By State

On a Single Night in January 2017

- Nationally, about a third of all people experiencing homelessness were in families with children. A much higher percentage, more than half, of all people experiencing homelessness were in families in Massachusetts (64.3%), New York (58.2%), and the District of Columbia (52.1%).
- Nearly 3 in 10 people experiencing homelessness in families with children (28.5%) were in New York. Only three other states accounted for more than five percent of the nation’s population of families with children experiencing homelessness: California (11.6%), Massachusetts (6.2%), and Florida (5.2%).

Chronically Homeless People in Families with Children

- Over half of all people experiencing chronic homelessness in families with children (51.9%) were located in California, New York, Massachusetts, and Florida. Rhode Island was the only state that reported no people in families with chronic patterns of homelessness.

Homeless People in Parenting Youth Families with Children

- New York had the largest number of people in parenting youth households experiencing homelessness (6,387 people), accounting for 30 percent of all people experiencing homelessness in families with a young parent.

Between January 2016 and January 2017

- The one-night count of people experiencing homelessness in families with children increased in 13 states, totaling 2,776 more people. California and New York experienced the largest increases (1,076 and 790 more people).
- The number of people in families with children experiencing homelessness decreased in 37 states and the District of Columbia, totaling 13,068 fewer people. Massachusetts had the largest decrease, with 1,876 fewer people.

Between January 2007 and January 2017

- New York and Massachusetts experienced the largest increases in the number of people experiencing homelessness in families with children between 2007 and 2017. The number increased by 17,568 in New York and 4,463 in Massachusetts.
- Thirty-eight states experienced declines in the number of people in families with children experiencing homelessness over the ten-year period. States with the largest declines were: California (6,762 fewer people), Texas (6,642 fewer people), Florida (5,607 fewer people), and New Jersey (5,239 fewer people).

Data Source: PIT 2007–2017
Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories
See Part 1 of the 2017 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state (www.hudexchange.info)
By State and Sheltered Status

On a Single Night in January 2017

- In 33 states and the District of Columbia, at least 90 percent of people experiencing homelessness in families with children were in emergency shelters, safe havens, or transitional housing programs.
- Three states accounted for over half (56.3%) of the nation’s population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness as part of a family with children: California (23.6%, or 3,658 people), Florida (20.9%, or 3,242 people), and Oregon (11.8%, or 1,826 people). These three states accounted for more than 50 percent of this population in 2016 as well.

Chronically Homeless People in Families with Children

- Chronically homeless people in families with children were much more likely to be in unsheltered locations (28.7%) than all people in families with children experiencing homelessness (9%).

Homeless People in Parenting Youth Families with Children

- In 29 states and the District of Columbia, more than 90 percent of people experiencing homelessness in families with children with parenting youth were in sheltered rather than unsheltered locations.
- For the second year in a row, Mississippi is the only state where the majority of these families with children were in unsheltered locations (60.9%).

In 2017, North Dakota (58%) and Oregon (51.9%) were the only states where more than half of people experiencing homelessness in families with children were in unsheltered locations.

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EXHIBIT 3.5: Sheltered Homeless People in Families with Children by State
Largest Changes in PIT Estimates, 2007-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th># Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>State</th>
<th># Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>1,582</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>Massachussets</td>
<td>-1,872</td>
<td>-14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>1,090</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>-897</td>
<td>-27.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>-777</td>
<td>-16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>-773</td>
<td>-11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>-728</td>
<td>-16.1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2007 to 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th># Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>State</th>
<th># Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>17,684</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>-4,718</td>
<td>-60.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>4,752</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
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<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>-2,407</td>
<td>-38.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures from 2007 to 2017 exclude North Dakota, Colorado, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Michigan from consideration due to methodological changes.
By State and Sheltered Status

Between January 2016 and January 2017

- In 13 states, the number of people in families experiencing homelessness in sheltered locations increased (3,515 additional people). California (1,582 additional people) and New York (1,090 additional people) had the largest increases.
- The number of people in families experiencing sheltered homelessness declined in 36 states and the District of Columbia (11,114 fewer people). The largest decreases were in Massachusetts (1,872) and Colorado (897).
- California had the largest decreases in the one-night counts of people in families with children in unsheltered locations: 792 fewer people in 2017 than in 2016.

Between January 2007 and January 2017

- The largest increases in the number of people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness were in New York (17,684 additional people) and Massachusetts (4,752 additional people). The largest decreases were in New Jersey (4,718 fewer people) and Texas (3,422 fewer people).
- California, Georgia, Florida, and Texas all had substantial decreases in people in families with children experiencing unsheltered homelessness over this ten-year period. The District of Columbia continued its ten-year trend of sheltering all people in families with children experiencing homelessness.

EXHIBIT 3.6: Unsheltered Homeless People in Families with Children by State
Largest Changes in PIT Estimates, 2007-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th># Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>State</th>
<th># Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>-792</td>
<td>-17.8</td>
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<td>Texas</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>89.0</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>-683</td>
<td>-77.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>-477</td>
<td>-47.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
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<td>97.9</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>-455</td>
<td>-19.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>136.5</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>-412</td>
<td>-43.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>216.7</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>-6,362</td>
<td>-63.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>1,675.0</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>-4,317</td>
<td>-95.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>414.3</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>-4,030</td>
<td>-55.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>-3,220</td>
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<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>-1,684</td>
<td>-48.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures from 2007 to 2017 exclude North Dakota, Colorado, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Michigan from consideration due to methodological changes. Only four states experienced increases in unsheltered homelessness among people in families with children.
2017 PROFILE
A TYPICAL PERSON EXPERIENCING SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS IN A FAMILY WITH CHILDREN WAS:

In a Household with a Young Mother and a Child
77.9% FEMALE / 52.1% 2- OR 3-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

Under Age 18
60.8%

Black or African American
51.8%

Not Disabled
78.5%

Living in a City
68.3%

Staying in Housing PRIOR TO USING A SHELTER* (53%)

Spending 46 Nights in Emergency Shelter

*Shelter refers to emergency shelter or transitional housing programs.
2017 One-Year Estimates of Sheltered Homeless Families with Children

These estimates are based on data collected over the course of one year and account for all people who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program as part of a family with children at any time from October 1 through September 30 of the reporting year. The estimates are based on a nationally representative sample of communities that submit aggregate Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data to HUD. The estimates adjust statistically for people experiencing sheltered homelessness in shelter programs that do not yet participate in their local HMIS—thus providing a complete estimated enumeration of sheltered people in families with children in each community—and are weighted to represent the entire country. These HMIS-based estimates do not include: (a) sheltered people in families with children in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories; (b) people in families with children served by victim service providers; and (c) people in families with children in unsheltered locations who never used a shelter program during the 12-month period.

“Families with children” are households composed of at least one adult and one child under age 18. Most of the estimates in this section describe people in families rather than family households.

Estimate of Families with Children Experiencing Sheltered Homelessness in 2017

- An estimated 478,718 people in 150,630 family households used an emergency shelter or a transitional housing program between October 1, 2016, and September 30, 2017.3
- About a third of all people who experienced sheltered homelessness over the course of the year, 33.8 percent, were in families with children.

Changes Over Time

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of people in families who used a shelter at some time over the course of a year declined 0.6 percent (2,692 fewer people), while the number of family households using shelters increased 2.2 percent, or 3,275 households. This is the third time in ten years that the direction of change for sheltered people in families and sheltered family households was different, reflecting year-to-year fluctuations in the sizes of families experiencing sheltered homelessness.
- In 2017, the number of people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness over the course of one year was essentially the same as in 2007, just 1.1 percent higher or 5,177 more people. The number was higher during some of the intervening years and highest in 2010, with 567,334 people in families using shelters at some time during that year.

3 The 95 percent confidence interval for the number of sheltered people in families with children in 2017 is 422,518 to 534,918 (478,718 ± 56,200).

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2017
Gender and Age

Beginning in 2015, HUD collected age information for people between the ages of 18 and 24 who were experiencing sheltered homelessness over the course of the one-year period. Information is collected separately for people between the ages of 25 and 30. For more detailed information on age categories, see the supporting HMIS data available for download (www.hudexchange.info).

In 2017

- Women accounted for more than three in four adults experiencing sheltered homelessness as part of families with children (77.9%). This share was 1.4 times higher than the share of women among adults in U.S. families (54.4%), and 1.2 times higher than the share among adults in families living in poverty (65.5%).
- Children under 18 made up about three in five people (60.8%) experiencing sheltered homelessness in families with children. Among these children, about half (49.0%) were under six years old, and one in ten (10.8%) were infants less than one year old.
- Adults between the ages of 25 and 30 in families with children were at greater risk of falling into sheltered homelessness than were older adults living with children. One of every 204 adults in U.S. families who were between the ages of 25 and 30 used a shelter program at some point during the year, whereas only one in 572 adults in families who were ages 31 to 50 did so.

Nearly half of children (48.9%) experiencing sheltered homelessness in families were 5 years of age or younger.

Changes Over Time

- The ages of children using shelter as part of a family shifted somewhat between 2007 and 2017. The most common age remained between ages 1 through 5, comprising similar shares of children experiencing sheltered homelessness over time (39.1% in 2007 and 38.1% in 2017). The share of children who were infants less than one year old decreased from 12.2 percent to 10.8 percent. Meanwhile, the share of children between 6 years and 12 years old increased from 33.6 percent to 36.5 percent.
- Although adults experiencing sheltered homelessness between the ages of 51 and 61 in families with children represent just 1.4 percent of all people experiencing sheltered homelessness in families with children, their numbers have grown by 19.6 percent between 2007 and 2017.
- The gender of adults experiencing sheltered homelessness in families with children shifted somewhat between 2007 and 2017, with women comprising a smaller share in 2017 (77.9%) than in 2007 (82%).

Ethnicity and Race

In 2017

- The share of people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness who identified as Hispanic is fairly representative of the share of Hispanics among all families with children in the U.S. (25.5% and 24.1%), but it was nearly ten percentage points lower than the share of Hispanics in families with children in the U.S. living in poverty (35.2%).
- African Americans were overrepresented among adults in families with children experiencing homelessness, accounting for 51.8 percent compared to 13.4 percent of adults in families with children in the U.S. African Americans were also overrepresented compared to adults in families with children in the U.S. living in poverty (22.9%).
- Sheltered people in families with children were more likely to identify as a race other than white or as white-Hispanic (79%) than people experiencing sheltered homelessness as individuals (55.9%).
- People identifying as white and non-Hispanic were underrepresented among sheltered adults in families with children (21%) compared to the adults in the U.S. families living in poverty (33.6%).

Changes Over Time

- The share of sheltered people in families with children who identified as Hispanic increased, from 21.8 percent in 2007 to 25.5 percent in 2017, proportionate to the growth among all people in families with children in the U.S. (19.9% to 24.1%), as well as all people in families in the U.S. living in poverty (30.8% to 35.2%).
- While the proportion of African Americans among all U.S. families with children has remained relatively stable between 2007 and 2017 (13.8% versus 13.4%), the proportion of people experiencing sheltered homelessness who identified as black or African American declined, from 55.2 percent in 2007 to 51.8 percent in 2017. In a similar trend, the proportion of black of African American families living in poverty decreased during the same timeframe (from 26.2% to 22.9%).

Throughout this report, the definition of “family” is a household with at least one adult and one child. The resulting minimum household size is two people. Family households have various compositions: single-parent families, two-parent families, and multi-generation families.

In 2017
- Families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness were generally in smaller households than those in the broader U.S. population. More than half the people in families experiencing sheltered homelessness (52.1%) were in households of just two or three people. By contrast, only a quarter of the people in all families with children in the U.S. (24.9%) were in households of two or three people.
- About a quarter of the people in families experiencing sheltered homelessness (25.5%) were in households with five or more people.
- Adults in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness are 2.5 times more likely to have a disability (21.5%) than all adults in families with children in the U.S. (8.6%), and 1.4 times more likely than adults in families with children in the U.S. living in poverty (15.6%).
- The disability rate among adults in families with children using shelters at some time over a year (21.5%) is about half the rate found among individuals using shelters (49.2%).

Adults in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness are 2.5 times more likely to have a disability than all adults in families with children in the U.S.

Changes Over Time
- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of people in families experiencing sheltered homelessness decreased while the corresponding number of family households increased. This reflects a decline in mean household size, from 3.27 in 2016 to 3.18 in 2017.
- Over a longer time period, sizes of families experiencing homelessness increased. The proportion of two-person households dropped from 26.6 percent in 2007 to 22.2 percent in 2017, and the proportion of households of 5 or more people grew from 23.4 percent to 25.5 percent.
- Over the 2007-2017 period, the disability rate for adults in families using shelters at some time during a year increased from 16.4 percent in 2007 to 21.5 percent in 2017. During the same time period, the disability rate for adults in all U.S. families with children declined from 10.1 percent to 8.6 percent.

Geographic Location

In 2017
- More than two-thirds of people in families with children who experienced sheltered homelessness were in principal cities, 68.3 percent, while just under a third were in suburban and rural areas (31.7%). A much higher proportion of all people in U.S. families with children lived in suburban and rural areas (68.2%), as did a much higher portion of people in families living in poverty (60.9%).
- People in families experiencing sheltered homelessness were more likely to be in suburban and rural areas (31.7%) than were individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness (25.4%).

Changes Over Time
- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of people in families experiencing sheltered homelessness declined by 2 percent (6,823 fewer people) in principal cities and increased 2.8 percent (4,132 more people) in suburban and rural areas.
- Although the geographical distribution of all U.S. families with children stayed roughly constant between 2007 and 2017, sheltered homelessness among people in families with children continued a gradual shift from principal cities to suburban and rural areas. People in families using shelters in principal cities declined by 5.5 percent (18,931 fewer people) and increased by 19.1 percent (24,334 more people) in suburban and rural areas.

Note: In 2012, the ACS changed its approach to tabulating data by geographic area. This exhibit updates the estimates for both the U.S. population living in poverty and the U.S. population as a whole to account for this change. The revised estimates result in higher proportions of people in principal cities for both the U.S. population living in poverty and the total U.S. population than shown in past reports. For more information, see the 2017 AHAR Data Collection and Analysis Methodology.2

EXHIBIT 3.14: Geographic Distribution

EXHIBIT 3.15: Percent Change by Geography
Change in the Number of Sheltered People in Families with Children, U.S. Families with Children Living in Poverty, and U.S. Families with Children, 2007-2017

Note: In 2012, the ACS changed its approach to tabulating data by geographic area. This exhibit updates the estimates for both the U.S. population living in poverty and the U.S. population as a whole to account for this change. The revised estimates result in higher proportions of people in principal cities for both the U.S. population living in poverty and the total U.S. population than shown in past reports. For more information, see the 2017 AHAR Data Collection and Analysis Methodology.3

1,2 This report can be downloaded from: www.hudexchange.info.
### Characteristics by Geography

#### In 2017
- A higher percentage of people experiencing sheltered homelessness in families with children in principal cities identified as Hispanic (27.9%) than in suburban and rural areas (20.3%).
- While African Americans were the most commonly reported racial group among the sheltered family population in both principal cities and suburban and rural areas, African Americans accounted for a considerably higher share in principal cities than in suburban and rural areas (58.1% versus 38.7%).
- People who identified as white and non-Hispanic accounted for just 15.8 percent of people in families using shelters in principal cities but twice as high a proportion (32.1%) in suburban and rural areas.
- The disability rate among adults with children experiencing homelessness in principal cities (25.4%) was higher than the rate among adult families in suburban and rural areas (20.3%).
- More families had either five or more people or just two people together in shelter in principal cities (26 percent with 5 or more people and 23.1 percent with two) than in suburban and rural areas (24.3 and 20.4 percent).

#### Changes Over Time
- Between 2016 and 2017, there was very little change in the characteristics of sheltered people in families with children in either principal cities or suburban or rural areas. Over the longer period, however, there were notable changes.
- While increasing from 56.0 percent to 58.1 percent in principal cities, the percentage of African Americans experiencing sheltered homelessness in families with children dropped in suburban and rural areas, from 53.3 percent in 2007 to 38.7 percent in 2017.
- The percentage of people identifying as Hispanic increased in both principal cities and in suburban and rural areas, but by a wider margin in suburban and rural areas. In 2017, 27.9 percent of sheltered people with children identified as Hispanic, compared to 24.6 percent in 2007. In suburban and rural areas, the percentage of sheltered people in families with children identifying as Hispanic increased from 13.4 percent to 20.3 percent during the same timeframe.
- The disability rate of adults with children experiencing sheltered homelessness increased between 2007 and 2017, from 15.4 percent to 19.6 percent in principal cities and from 18.7 percent to 25.4 percent in suburban and rural areas.
- Between 2007 and 2017, the share of men in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness increased both in principal cities (from 17.8% to 21.7%) and in suburban and rural areas (from 18.3% to 22.9%).

### EXHIBIT 3.16: Characteristics by Geography

Sheltered Homeless People in Families with Children, 2007-2017 (in %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Principal Cities</th>
<th>Suburban and Rural Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Homeless People in Families with Children</td>
<td>346,032</td>
<td>127,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>333,924</td>
<td>147,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>327,101</td>
<td>151,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender of Adults</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>81.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>86.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, Hispanic</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>53.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other One Race</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Races</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Age 18</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>63.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 30</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 24</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 30</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 - 50</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 - 61</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62 and Older</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Status of Adults</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Disabled</td>
<td>84.7</td>
<td>81.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data were collected on people age 18-30 until 2015, when this information was collected separately for people age 18-24 and 25-30.

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2017
**Exhibit 3.17: Places Adults in Families with Children Stayed Before Entering Shelter* and Change Over Time, 2007-2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Stayed</th>
<th>2017 #</th>
<th>2016-2017 %</th>
<th># Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>2007-2017 #</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Already Homeless</td>
<td>71,539</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>9,317</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>27,567</td>
<td>62.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td>46,460</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>-4,598</td>
<td>-11.0</td>
<td>5,218</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>25,079</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>4,719</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>22,068</td>
<td>400.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>99,309</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>-9,156</td>
<td>-9.1</td>
<td>20,065</td>
<td>32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying with family</td>
<td>47,354</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>-4,762</td>
<td>-9.1</td>
<td>11,701</td>
<td>32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying with friends</td>
<td>24,720</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>-2,036</td>
<td>-7.6</td>
<td>5,134</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rented housing unit</td>
<td>25,239</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>-2,480</td>
<td>-9.8</td>
<td>7,140</td>
<td>39.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned housing unit</td>
<td>1,734</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>-4,438</td>
<td>-72.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent supportive housing (PSH)</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>-142</td>
<td>-35.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Settings</td>
<td>2,961</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>-343</td>
<td>-10.4</td>
<td>-161</td>
<td>-5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse treatment center</td>
<td>1,497</td>
<td>50.6</td>
<td>-387</td>
<td>-20.5</td>
<td>-403</td>
<td>-21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional facility</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>-72</td>
<td>-9.4</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric facility</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Settings</td>
<td>13,664</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>-804</td>
<td>-5.6</td>
<td>-5,377</td>
<td>-28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel or motel</td>
<td>12,393</td>
<td>90.7</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>-631</td>
<td>-4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster care home</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>-28</td>
<td>-18.7</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>171.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other living arrangement</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>-1,005</td>
<td>-46.7</td>
<td>-4,823</td>
<td>-80.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: To produce comparable trend information, statistical imputations were applied to missing values in this table. See the 2017 AHAR Data Collection and Analysis Methodology.

**Exhibit 3.18: Places Adults in Families with Children Stayed Who Were Not Already Homeless Before Entering Shelter*, 2007-2017 (in %)**

- **Housing**: 78.3% in 2007, 85.9% in 2016, 85.7% in 2017
- **Institutions**: 3.1% in 2007, 2.6% in 2016, 2.6% in 2017
- **Other**: 18.6% in 2007, 11.5% in 2016, 11.8% in 2017

Note: To produce comparable trend information, statistical imputations were applied to missing values in this table. See the 2017 AHAR Data Collection and Analysis Methodology.
Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns

Emergency shelter and transitional housing programs were designed differently. Emergency shelters were designed as high-volume, high-turnover programs; their primary purpose was to provide temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness. In contrast, transitional housing programs were designed to offer people experiencing homelessness shelter as well as supportive services for up to 24 months, assuming people would stay longer than they do in emergency shelters.

In 2017
- There were 141,350 beds in emergency shelters for families with children and 59,936 beds in transitional housing programs for families with children.
- Of the 478,718 people in families experiencing sheltered homelessness at some point during the reporting year, 83.7 percent stayed only in emergency shelters, 13.4 percent stayed only in transitional housing programs, and 2.9 percent used both emergency shelter and transitional housing programs.
- The median length of stay in emergency shelter for people in families with children was 46 nights, more than twice as long as for individuals (22 nights). The median stay in transitional housing was 138 nights (about four and a half months) over the course of one year.

Changes Over Time
- The emergency shelter inventory for families with children increased by 43.8 percent (43,063 more beds) from 2007 to 2017, while the transitional housing inventory for families with children decreased by a slightly larger quantity (46.2%, or 51,432 fewer beds).
- The proportion of people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness that used emergency shelters at some point during the reporting year (either exclusively or in addition to transitional housing programs) increased from 75.4 percent in 2007 to 86.6 percent in 2017, while the proportion using transitional housing programs (either exclusively or in addition to emergency shelters) decreased from 30.5 percent in 2007 to 16.3 percent in 2017.
- Although emergency shelters served more people in families with children in 2017 (414,541 people) than in 2007 (356,899), these facilities served fewer people per available bed (3.5 people per bed in 2017 and 4.9 in 2007).
- The median length of stay for people in families with children using emergency shelters increased by 16 days between 2007 and 2017.
- Average occupancy rates increased in emergency shelters from 85.9 percent in 2007 to 86.1 percent in 2017 and in transitional housing programs from 72.9 percent in 2007 to 80.6 percent in 2017. Both 2017 occupancy rates represent slight decreases over the 2016 average occupancy rates of 90.4 percent in emergency shelters and 81.1 percent in transitional housing programs.
